

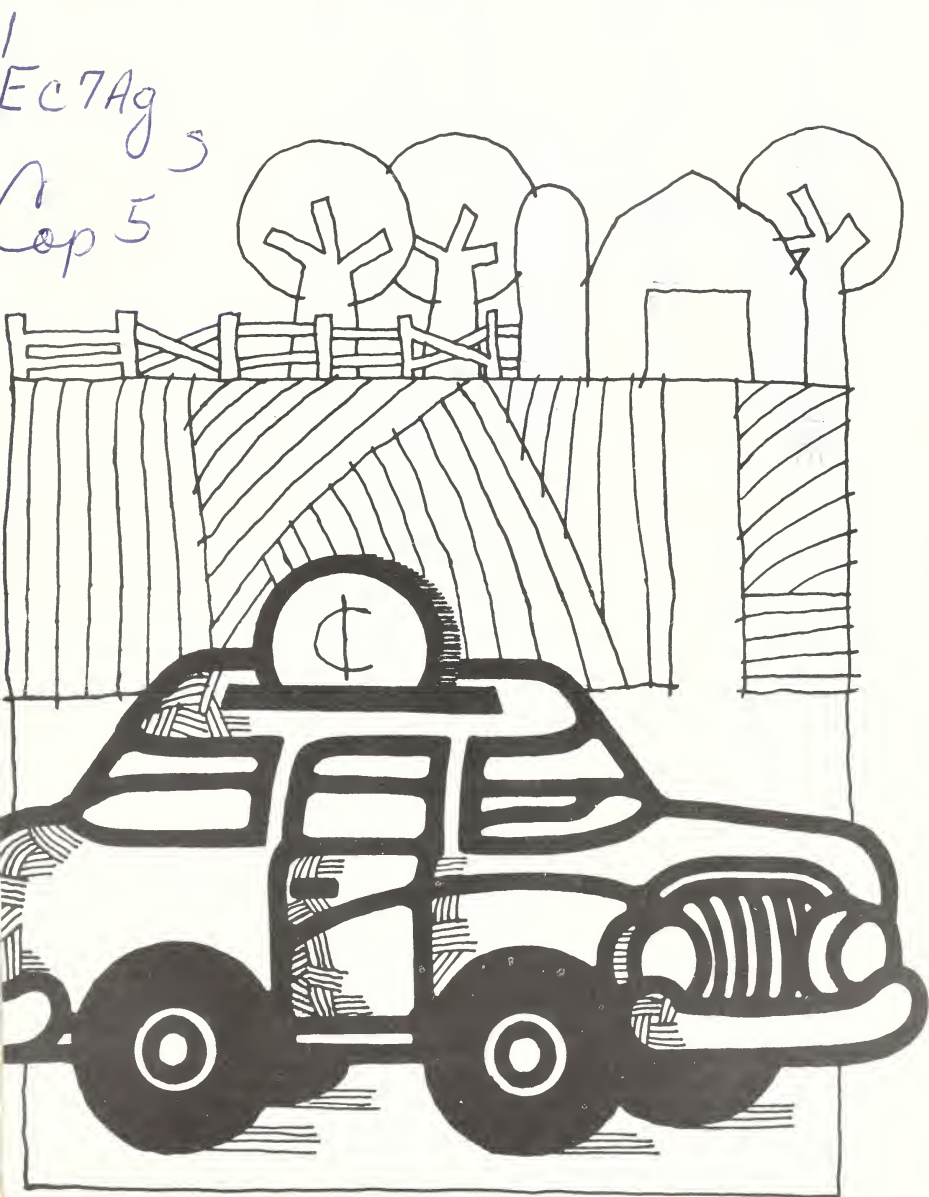
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# agricultural situation

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE



FOOTING THE FARM FAMILY BILL

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## FOOTING THE FARM FAMILY BILL

A new car. Some groceries. A few clothes. A trip to the dentist. When 1973 drew to a close, farm families across the country had paid out \$30.7 billion for items just like these.

On a family basis, that works out nearly \$11,000, or more than triple what the average farm family paid for day-to-day living expenses 18 years earlier.

The figures are the results of SRS's survey of 1973 farm family living expenditures, the first such survey since 1955. SRS collected the information from personal interviews with more than 2,600 farm families throughout the United States.

For most of the survey families and

the others they represent, 1973 was an extraordinary year. Net farm income soared to an unprecedented \$32 billion—almost double the year-earlier tally.

With more money in their pockets, a lot of farmers and their families no doubt seized the chance to make some long overdue purchases. While no one knows exactly how much usual spending patterns were altered, SRS cautions that the higher farm earnings should be kept in mind in analyzing survey results.

The 18 years between surveys not only produced a staggering jump in living outlays, but also brought some changes in the structure of a "typical" farm family.

Back in 1955, an average farm household contained 3.8 people. By 1973 that figure had shrunk to 3.5. And while the family grew smaller, the typical household head aged from 49.6 to 50.4 years.

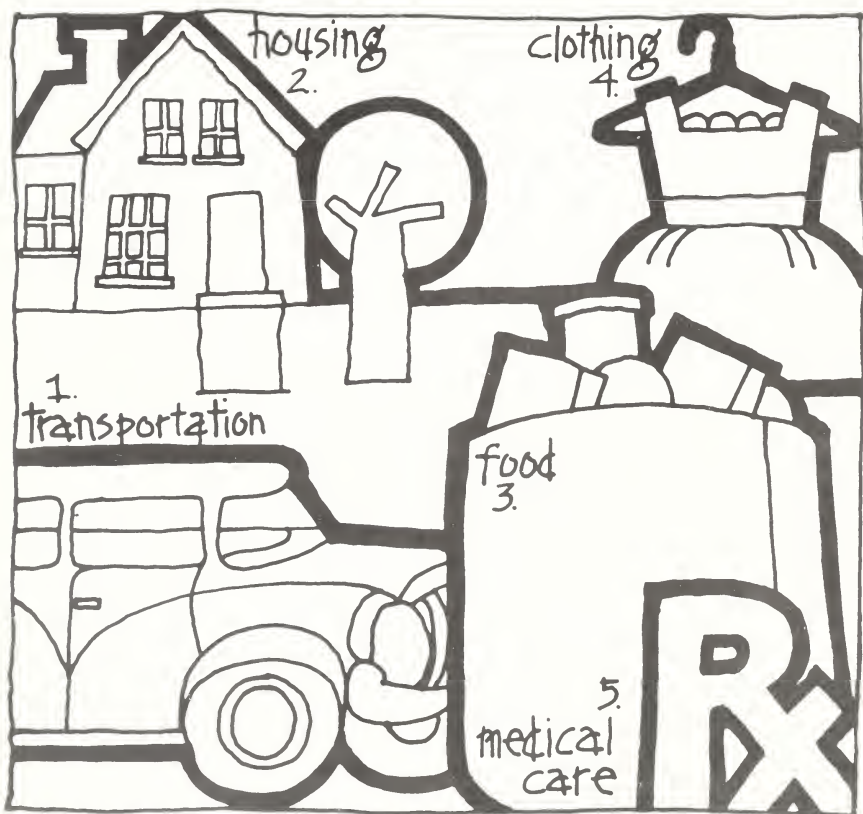
The intervening years also saw some reshuffling in the list of leading family living costs . . .

Transportation—the fourth biggest family expense in 1955—nudged out housing as the No. 1 cost in 1973. The typical farm family paid \$3,100 for transportation alone—almost what it spent for all its living needs 18 years earlier.

Most transportation money went to buy the family car. But on top of that, farmers dug into their pockets for an additional \$850 for maintenance and repairs and various operating expenses like registration fees, licenses, and insurance.

Eighteen years earlier, transportation claimed only 11 percent of all family living expenses. On the latest survey, it grabbed nearly 29 percent of total outlays, and roughly a fourth of the farm family's income before taxes.

Mortgages, rent, home furnishings,



and general home repair stood second on the list. All housing costs came to around \$2,670 and swallowed up just over a fifth of pretax income.

Home furnishings and household operations took proportionately less of the family budget than in 1955. But outlays for housing alone—the cost of merely owning or renting a “shelter”—cornered somewhat more of total expenses.

Keeping the farm family fed meant a bill of just over \$2,000 in 1973, excluding the value of food grown and eaten directly on the farm. Between surveys, groceries slipped from second to third place on the list, claiming 16 percent of gross farm income in 1973.

Food eaten at home dropped from 22 to 15 percent of all living costs. But families continued to spend the same portion for dining out—around 3½ percent.

Clothes made up the fourth biggest living expense, with the average farm family spending almost \$650 in 1973. Clothing’s share of total expenses, however, slipped from 13 to 6 percent.

Females 16 years and over ran up clothing bills of around \$220, outspending their male counterparts by roughly \$20. Fabrics, dry cleaning, tailoring, and other services trimmed an additional \$82 from the family budget.

Rural doctors, dentists, hospitals,

and other medical services took yet another 5 percent of the farm family's pretax income, or about \$625. Medical costs ranked fifth among major outlays, as they did 18 years earlier.

Together, the top five living expenditures ate away nearly three-fourths of the farm family's income before taxes and accounted for 84 percent of its total living expenses.

Of the remaining 16 percent, the largest single item was cash gifts and contributions—\$366. Personal insurance drove up the annual bill by \$321.

Education came to \$160, while families put out some \$211 for personal care items like haircuts, shampoo, cosmetics, vitamins, and nonprescription drugs.

Tobacco and alcoholic beverages ran up a bill of \$91, or 1 percent of total spending. Subscriptions and memberships took another \$48.

How did SRS gather all these details? First, researchers developed a 90-page questionnaire designed to trigger accurate responses and help families recall the countless small purchases made over a year's time.

Then in April 1973, enumerators made the first of three visits to a statistically selected sample of farm residences. Their first step was to establish the number and identity of household members in each consuming unit.

Enumerators then gathered a starting inventory of consumer goods on hand—things like cars, TV sets, refrigerators, and other major appliances. Also recorded were living costs incurred during the first quarter of 1973.

A second visit in July covered family living outlays from April through June. And a wrap-up visit in January 1974 included all expenses during second half 1973, as well as

annual costs such as insurance and magazine subscriptions.

Expenses recorded in the three interview sessions covered only those actually incurred in 1973. For example, if a farm operator bought a car in 1972, it wouldn't count in the survey, even though he was still making payments on it in 1973.

Also, certain items like cars and trucks got special treatment, since they're generally used both for business and for family transportation. Family members were asked to estimate what percent was used for farm business, so that enumerators would record only the share related to family living.

The three interviews combined took about 7 hours and yielded important information on the cost of living for the Nation's farmers—data usually not available from agricultural censuses and other surveys.

The survey's main purpose, however, was to update the weight used in the Parity Index. The Index is one of USDA's most important indicators of farm well-being, since it provides a way of determining if prices of farm products are keeping pace with prices paid by farmers for other commodities.

Farm family living expenses are one of five major components that go into the Parity Index. In terms of farm expenditures, family living and farm production are the Index's two most important components. Together, they form what's known as the "Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Goods and Services."

In June 1974, the indexes of farm production and family living expenditures covered prices for 440 items ranging from feeder pigs and fertilizer to food and clothing. About half of these various price series were covered in the family living survey.





## ONE FAMILY'S BILL... HOW IT CHANGED IN 18 YEARS<sup>1</sup>

Expenditures	Average dollars per family 1973	Percent of total expenditures <sup>2</sup>	
		1955 <sup>3</sup>	1973
<b>Food</b>	2,013	25.2	18.7
Food and nonalcoholic beverages at home	1,643	21.7	15.2
Food away from home	370	3.5	3.4
<b>Housing</b>	2,671	28.1	24.8
Shelter	1,247	10.7	11.6
House furnishings and equipment	696	8.9	6.5
Household operations	728	8.5	6.7
<b>Clothing</b>	647	13.0	6.0
Females, 16 years and over	221	4.3	2.1
Females, 2-15 years	64	1.3	.6
Males, 16 years and over	203	4.4	1.9
Males, 2-15 years	66	1.3	.6
Children under 2	11	.2	.1
Materials and services	82	1.5	.8
<b>Transportation</b>	3,109	11.4	28.8
Purchases, all motor vehicles	2,226	5.1	20.6
Maintenance and repairs, all motor vehicles	193	<sup>4</sup> 5.9	1.8
Operating expenses, all motor vehicles	656		6.1
Other travel and transportation	34	.4	.3
<b>Medical care</b>	624	7.3	5.8
<b>Personal care</b>	211	2.1	2.0
<b>Tobacco and alcoholic beverages</b>	91	2.0	.8
Tobacco	18	1.6	.2
Alcoholic beverages	73	.5	.7
<b>Subscriptions and memberships</b>	48	1.4	.4
<b>Education</b>	160	.8	1.5
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	524	2.8	4.9
<b>Personal insurance</b>	321	2.6	3.0
<b>Cash gifts and contributions</b>	366	3.3	3.4

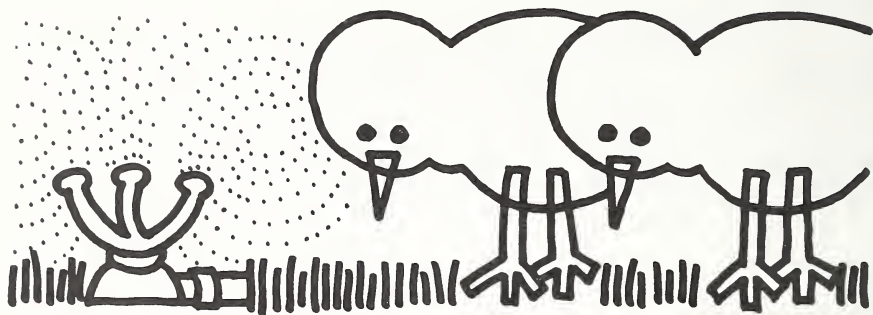
<sup>1</sup> Preliminary. Includes all family living expenses incurred in 1973, except income taxes.

<sup>2</sup> Percents may not add due to rounding.

<sup>3</sup> 1955 data were restructured for greater comparability with 1973 expenditure groupings.

<sup>4</sup> Includes operating expenses.

# GRASS FED BIRDS



Mow it and throw it away? If you're a turf farmer, you may want to think twice before you do it.

While grass clippings from turf farms are usually discarded just after trimming to prevent insects or diseases from developing in the turf, researchers have found that dried grass clippings make excellent poultry feed. The clippings are rich in xanthophyll and carotene—two compounds that give chicken the characteristic color that most consumers prefer.

Scientists at the Western Regional Research Center in Berkeley, Calif., part of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, have run a series of dehydration experiments on clippings from bent and blue grasses—a couple of common turf farm varieties.

They've discovered that low drying temperatures, as well as the short time required for drying the grass, produce only a 1-percent loss of carotene and a 1-percent loss of xanthophyll. Optimum drying conditions range from 220° to 270° F. for 2½ to 3 minutes.

Because fresh grass contains over 500 milligrams of xanthophyll per pound and retains it well during drying, the dehydrated product remains very high in the pigmenting compound. The high protein content (25 percent) and low fiber content (20 percent) of the dried meal also help make it a top quality poultry feed.

Since most turf grass grows over a

short season, the dried clippings frequently must be stored for several months before feeding. Researchers have found that grass clippings can better retain xanthophyll and carotene if, just before storing, they're treated with ethoxyquin, a substance that retards oxidation.

After one storage test of 12 weeks at 100° F., dried grass clippings treated with the antioxidant still had 85 percent of their carotene and roughly 75 percent of their xanthophyll.

The USDA scientists carried out their research with the cooperation of two turf farms in California and one in New Jersey. As a result of that research, the two California firms are operating grass dehydrators in several locations.

The operator of a large turf farm near Denver, Colo., is planning to integrate his turf business with a new 200,000-bird poultry operation. Besides saving on feed dollars, the operator will be able to recycle the manure produced by his chickens for fertilizing his turf.

Since agricultural byproducts intended for animal feed must meet government regulations on pesticide residues, these companies have developed turf production systems that avoid the use of any pesticide that's banned from animal feed. Also, the dried grass clippings are monitored to assure compliance with these regulations.



# ACRES FOR ALIENS

Can aliens own U.S. farmland? Yes, but it may be harder to come by in some States than others.

Land laws in 29 States restrict alien ownership in one way or another, according to a recent study by a USDA economist and a University of Minnesota law professor.

Restrictions vary from those that virtually prohibit investment by any alien—defined in the study as anyone who isn't a U.S. citizen—to only minor restraints that probably would not deter the prudent investor.

Only seven States—Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, and Oklahoma—have comprehensive anti-alien legislation barring foreign investment in U.S. real estate. Nonetheless, these laws work mainly to prevent nonresident aliens from buying rural land and generally don't apply to aliens living here.

Five other States impose acreage or time restrictions on alien ownership. Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin all set ceilings ranging from 160 to 640 acres. While these laws don't block investments by alien individuals, they do tend to keep out foreign conglomerates seeking larger investment opportunities.

Illinois allows aliens to hold land up to 6 years—presumably long enough to dispose of inherited property or to become a U.S. citizen.

In eight other States, restrictions are so minor as to pose almost no barrier at all. Typically, these laws require that an alien be a "friend of the United States" or be "eligible for citizenship."

A number of States have also written into their lawbooks provisions that forbid alien-owned corporations to buy rural real estate.

Despite the myriad of restrictions, alien governments, as well as alien individuals and corporations, can

probably buy land in most States, since practical obstacles tend to blunt the effectiveness of these statutes. For example, alien investors can get around a number of State restrictions by using corporate forms of ownership, or through partnerships, trusts, and other devices.

Constitutional considerations also tend to weaken anti-alien legislation among individual States. The U.S. Constitution, for instance, forbids separate States from becoming directly involved in foreign relations or discriminating against any person within its jurisdiction.

## RAW FIBERS: A RARER IMPORT

Jute, sisal, abaca, coir, istle, and kapok aren't exactly household words.

Yet the United States imported just over 102,600 long tons of these and other raw vegetable fibers last year. The bill came to more than \$51 million—80 percent more than the year earlier, when the United States bought an even larger amount.

Sisal and henequen imports have continued to fall off sharply, with shipments off 68 percent from 1973. Henequen imports alone dropped to 561 tons—from around 17,500 the year before and over 35,000 in 1972.

For the most part, sisal and henequen are spun into baler and binder twines. Experts with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service say the dropoff in raw sisal and henequen imports came about largely from bigger imports of processed items.

Over the past 2 years, increased prices for raw fiber, as well as the mid-1973 sale of 100 million pounds of stockpiled sisal by the General Services Administration, helped cool import demand.

Only abaca and coir substantially bucked the trend toward a smaller volume of raw vegetable fibers crossing our shores. Shipments of abaca swelled by three-fourths over their 1973 level.

# AGRICULTURE 200 YEARS FROM NOW

As our Nation gears up for its bicentennial celebration, we are reminded almost daily of "the way it was" when the United States declared its independence. Yet there are those who also see this as a time to contemplate "the way it will be" in another 200 years, when America celebrates its fourth centennial.

Don Paarlberg, USDA's Director of Agricultural Economics, is one of those people. Not long ago, Dr. Paarlberg addressed a group of agricultural historians and shared his thoughts on agriculture in the year 2175.

Below are some excerpts from his talk:

*Will technology continue to be our major preoccupation?*

Science and technology will no doubt continue in the saddle for many years to come. But our previous unquestioned acceptance of science and technology as benefactors of the human race is now being challenged.

We will, I think, make better use of our technology in the years ahead and strike a better balance between material goals and aesthetic values.

*But science and technology will still be important. What major change might we see?*

The plow, symbol of agriculture during our first 200 years, will gradually be retired. We will rediscover the wisdom of the Indian, who, when first seeing a plowed field, commented, "Wrong side up."

Wind and water erosion caused by the plow is incalculable. We will learn to grow crops using minimum tillage, to control weeds with biodegradable chemicals, and to apply various mulches. What's left of our soil we will try to keep in place.

*What technological breakthroughs can we expect in agriculture during the*



*2 centuries that lie ahead of us?*

These are just a few of the great things that might happen:

Higher protein content in cereal grains and other crops.

Hybridization of more crops, including wide crosses like triticale.

Improved soil management techniques that would allow man to farm the fragile soils of the tropical rain forest.

Biological rather than chemical control of insects and diseases.

Control of the tsetse fly, which would allow Africa to open up vast areas of idle land for farming.

Successful long range weather prediction, and possibly weather modification.

Extension of the principle of nitrogen fixation to plants besides legumes, thus reducing the need for commercial fertilizers.



Desalination of sea water, allowing human habitation and agricultural production on lands now unused.

Conquest of the fuel problem, probably through nuclear energy.

Greater environmental control for both plants and animals, leading to more economical production and higher, more standardized quality.

Advances in food technology, especially in using plant protein as meat analogs for the millions who can't afford meat, milk, and eggs.

And, very importantly, advances in family planning so that population doesn't multiply faster than the world's ability to feed itself.

*What types of institutional changes can we expect?*

The family farmer will slowly give up his historic role of supplying all production inputs—land, labor, capital, and management. Agricultural pro-

duction will require farms so large—and so much land, capital, and managerial skill—that a single person will be unlikely to supply them all.

In commercial agriculture, the nearest thing to the family farmer will be a farm operator who lives on the land with his family, rents his farm, borrows his money, and hires his labor. He will make his own decisions on combining these inputs and contracting for both inputs and output.

Besides those farms that produce most of our crops and livestock, there will be part-time farms, combining the production of food and off-farm jobs with rural living.

*Then our rural areas will be home to a greater number of Americans?*

For the first 200 years we flocked to the city. But in the next 200 years we will probably look to the country as a place to live. Rural areas will be able to provide most of the public services that were formerly found only in the cities.

Two centuries from now the "City Limits" signs will have lost their significance. They will mark a boundary between units of government; they will have limited social and economic distinctions.

*How will we manage our land?*

Our first 200 years we spent cutting down trees, but during the next 2 centuries we will put back into trees lands that were deforested in order to be farmed but are no longer suitable for modern agriculture.

During most of our history we sought to get the public domain into private ownership, and to a large measure succeeded. Now we shall be trying to determine the legitimate public interest in privately owned lands and how to protect that interest. Should, for example, the competitive market alone continue to determine whether these lands should be used for cropping, timber, mining, recreation, industry, airports, or flood control?

We are in a transitional period in regard to land use policy, and it will be a major issue in the years ahead.



# SURVEYSCOPE

*To give our readers a clearer picture of the vast scope of SRS activities, Agricultural Situation presents a series of articles on special surveys undertaken in various States. While these are not national surveys, they are important to the agriculture in individual States.*

"Last year, our mid-June estimate fell only slightly below actual production. This year, we hope to be even more on target," says C. A. Hines, Statistician in Charge of the Michigan Crop Reporting Service.

The estimate he's referring to is for tart cherry production in his State, a figure his office releases each June, several weeks before harvest gets underway.

A reliable mid-June production forecast is important to Michigan growers, since the State leads the Nation in tart cherry production. "The 103,000 tons we harvested last year came to nearly

80 percent of the national total," claims Hines.

The estimate for this year's crop, released June 23, calls for 115,000 tons, up around 12 percent from last year.

Work on the mid-June estimate really gets underway in the spring, when Hines' office randomly selects 300 sample blocks of tart cherry trees from a list of Michigan growers in all production areas who marketed tart cherries in 1974.

Growers whose blocks are selected are contacted in mid-April. But before going into the orchards to start the



The May bloom count, part of Michigan's annual tart cherry survey, helps to develop

survey, enumerators must get each producer's O.K. From this first interview, the enumerators also determine the number of bearing trees in each sample.

In the orchards, enumerators locate and mark three trees in each sample block, randomly selecting and tagging a primary limb and two terminal limbs on each tree to be used later in the survey for counting blooms and cherries.

In May when the cherry blossoms reach their peak, enumerators count blooms on 100 sample limbs. Again in mid-June, the survey teams return to the sample limbs to count cherries on all 900 trees. They also strip fruit from one terminal branch per sample, and send it to laboratories for counting and weighing.

"Data from the bloom and cherry counts, weights of cherries, and other measurements made on the 900 sample tart cherry trees are used to determine average production per tree in each of Michigan's three major pro-

ducing areas," explains Hines.

"The average output per tree is finally expanded to give the expected production of tart cherries from the 3 million bearing trees across the State."

But the work doesn't end with the mid-June estimate . . .

Just before harvest, enumerators make another fruit count on 100 trees and again strip cherries from a terminal branch for weighing. These counts help determine the harvest weights of the cherries.

Enumerators then mark off and clean a wedge-shaped "gleaning area" under the primary limb of the third sample tree in 60 blocks.

Within 5 days after the harvest, the survey team returns and gathers up all cherries lying in the gleaning area, plus any unpicked cherries remaining on the sample limbs. The number of these cherries are later expanded for the entire Michigan crop to determine the amount of fruit lost during harvesting.



a reliable estimate of the total State crop—our Nation's biggest—before harvesttime.



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# Briefings

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RECENT REPORTS BY USDA OF ECONOMIC, MARKETING, AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING FARMERS.

**SLIPPING . . .** U.S. farm exports between July 1975 and June 1976 will be worth about \$18 billion, predict USDA economists. That's off about 20% from the record-shattering \$22 billion a year earlier. Contributing to the reduced value are a slow recovery from recession in most developed countries, expected gains in world farm output, and lower export earnings in many developing nations due to a sharp drop in prices for raw materials. Also, U.S. export prices have fallen off considerably since last January, and this will no doubt pull down total value, despite a possible 10% gain in overall volume.

**CHERRIES: A JUBILEE YEAR . . .** SRS's October 6 report will show the final tally, but right now it appears the United States is in for a sharply higher crop of tart cherries. Experts pin total production at nearly 157,280 tons, up 19% from last year, and more than 81% above the short 1973 crop. Michigan, which supplies nearly three-fourths the Nation's total, expects to harvest 115,000 tons. New York, meantime, expects to double its year-earlier output.

**ON THE SWEET SIDE . . .** Forecasters say 1975 sweet cherry production will climb to 155,250 tons, 8% over last year. Michigan is looking to beat its 1972 record with 30,000 tons, 18% more than in 1974.

**BRAKES ON FARM BORROWING . . .** Loans made to farmers and their cooperatives by the Farm Credit System last year totaled \$27½ billion, up 16% from a year earlier, but a moderate gain compared to the 40% jump the year before. An official with the Farm Credit System attributes the slower farm loan demand to a more cautious stance taken by farmers in 1974, versus a year earlier when pent-up demand for farm products spurred heavy investments in machinery as well as land. He notes that if inflation were discounted, the growth in loan activity last year would have been substantially more modest. But moving into 1975, loan demand was on the upward spiral again as farmers geared up for record production at a time of historically high input prices.

**THE INSPECTORS' NOTEBOOK . . .** During first quarter 1975, USDA meat and poultry inspectors found chemical residues in nearly 3% of all samples tested, about double the rate of the previous quarter. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) reports that the upturn follows a pattern of increased first quarter violations, which officials attribute to the more frequent use of antibiotics to treat animals during the winter months and the spraying of barn interiors and insides of other shelters. Violations occur when residues of chemicals like drugs, antibiotics, growth stimulants, and pesticides surpass tolerance guidelines set by the Food and Drug Administration or Environmental Protection Agency. Residues from antibiotics were the most common violations, while inspectors found no residues from growth stimulants.

**ON SECOND THOUGHT . . .** After dropping its 1975 support program for gum naval stores, USDA reinstated it earlier this year at the request of producers. The program was dropped last November when prices for crude pine gum and products stood at high levels and there appeared no need for loans. But prices skidded sharply since March, due partly to unusually heavy imports of rosin. Support is set at \$61.30 for a standard 435-pound barrel of basic grade crude pine gum.

**WITH MALICE TOWARD THE MOTH . . .** Introduced into this country from Europe just over a century ago, the gypsy moth last year defoliated over 750,000 acres of trees in the Northeastern States alone, and has so far defied all major attempts to suppress it. But over the years, this tough and unpopular immigrant has acquired a handful of natural enemies, including birds, rodents, and other insects. Forest scientists believe that scientific encouragement of these enemies may cut the gypsy moth problem down to size. Meantime, USDA has released a new, color-illustrated publication describing these helpful predators and their method of attack. For a copy of *The Gypsy Moth and Its Natural Enemies* (Agriculture Information Bulletin 381), write the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Price is 60 cents.

**NO RAIN IN SPAIN . . .** Last year's crop of Spanish table olives has been pegged at 90,000 metric tons, off more than a third from the previous year. Traditionally the world's largest olive supplier, Spain endured severe drought in its major producing areas, and this accounted for most of the downturn, say experts with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. With reduced output in the United States as well, world olive production dipped to an estimated 205,500 tons, but rallied to top the 1966-70 average by better than a third.

**IBERIAN IMPORTS . . .** Increased Spanish prosperity has accelerated the demand for agricultural imports, making Spain the eighth biggest customer for U.S. farm products. Last year, Spain bought \$711 million in U.S. farm goods, 54% more than a year earlier and nearly 4 times the 1970 level. Spain is the fourth largest market for American soybeans, taking \$338 million worth in 1974. Second ranking U.S. farm export to Spain last year was feed grains—mainly corn—valued at \$280 million.

**TOBACCO: SOME TAPERING . . .** Lagging economies both here and abroad during the 1974/75 marketing year have caused U.S. tobacco exports, as well as domestic use, to drift below last year's record highs. Nonetheless, total disappearance is running above 1974 output and tobacco carryover this fall will slip below last fall's 2.95 billion pounds—to its lowest level since 1947.

**WORKING WITH WHEAT . . .** Under a cooperative agreement, scientists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) will join forces with researchers at Montana State University to study the genetic resistance of wheat to Septoria diseases. Septoria diseases are leaf disorders that cause a loss of chlorophyll, which in turn reduces yield. Scientists hope to determine cultural, biological, and chemical means of controlling the diseases, which pose a severe threat in areas where susceptible wheat varieties are grown. Another goal: to develop new wheat strains that are resistant to Septoria ailments.

**AND OTHER CEREALS . . .** Under a grant from ARS, scientists at Oregon State University will examine the biology, host range, and control of oat cyst nematodes. These pests cause serious damage to oats, barley wheat, corn, and certain turf and forage grasses. Discovered for the first time in northwest Oregon, the oat cyst nematode threatens important cereal crops in Oregon as well as other parts of the Pacific Northwest.

**TESTING TRITICALE . . .** Research on triticale—a cross between wheat and rye—got some help earlier this year when USDA's Cooperative State Research Service awarded two grants totaling around \$221,000 to Alabama A&M University. The first grant will help finance a study of how different levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium affect growth, yield, and quality of triticale. The second provides continuing funds for research to determine the amount of lime required by triticale and its effects on growth, mineral composition, and yields.

# Statistical Barometer

Item	1973	1974	1975—latest available data	
<b>Farm Food Market Basket:<sup>1</sup></b>				
Retail cost (1967=100)	142	162	169	May
Farm value (1967=100)	167	178	182	May
Farmer's share of retail cost (percent)	46	43	42	May
<b>Farm Income:</b>				
Volume of farm marketings (1967=100)	116	116	102	2
Cash receipts from farm marketings (\$bil.)	88.6	95.0	90.6	2
Realized gross farm income (\$bil.)	97.0	102.0	98.0	2
Production expenses (\$bil.)	64.7	74.8	76.5	2
Realized net farm income (\$bil.)	32.2	27.2	21.5	2
<b>Income and Spending:</b>				
Disposable personal income (\$bil.)	903.7	979.7	1,017.4	2
Expenditures for food (\$bil.)	143.6	164.5	177.4	2
Share of income spent for food (percent)	15.9	16.8	17.4	2
<b>Prices:</b>				
Consumer price index, all items (1967=100)	133.1	147.7	159.3	May
Food (1967=100)	141.4	161.7	171.8	May
<b>Agricultural Trade:</b>				
Agricultural exports (\$bil.)	17.7	22.0	1.8	April
Agricultural imports (\$bil.)	8.4	10.2	.8	April
<b>Hogs and Pigs:</b>				
Hogs and pigs on farms, June 1 (million)	60.0	59.4	48.2	June
Kept for breeding (million)	9.0	8.9	7.4	June
Market (million)	50.9	50.5	40.8	June
December-May pig crop (million)	46.2	45.2	35.3	June
June-November pig crop (million)	88.2	84.0	<sup>3</sup> 69.3	June
Pigs per litter, December-May	7.15	7.07	7.15	June
Pigs per litter, June-November	7.16	7.11	<sup>3</sup> 7.20	June
<b>Farm Real Estate:</b>				
Total value, March 1 (\$bil.)	259	324	370	
Value per acre, March 1 (\$)	247	310	354	

<sup>1</sup>Average annual quantities per family and single person households bought by wage and clerical workers, 1960-61, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics figures.

<sup>2</sup>Annual rate, seasonally adjusted, first quarter.

<sup>3</sup>Average number of pigs per litter with allowance for trend used to compute indicated June-November pig crop.

## AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

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DIANE DECKER, EDITOR

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